

(p12-48)

ADDRESS BY STROM THURMOND, CANDIDATE FOR THE UNITED STATES
SENATE, AT CAMPAIGN MEETING AT GREENWOOD, S. C., JUNE
27, 1950, at 8:00 P. M.

JACKSON DAY DINNER-- GREENWOOD

Yesterday at Laurens/I gave a day-by-day account of the strange antics of my opponent in this race/during the 1948 presidential campaign. It was a strange record of contradictions/which I said made him the greatest political jumping jack of all time.

Tonight I want to tell you about two Jackson Day dinners. First let me describe the 1948 Jackson Day dinner.

President Truman a few weeks previously had submitted his civil rights message to Congress. There was an atmosphere of despondency among the Southerners in the nation's capital/but plans went forward for a big Jackson Day dinner.

Then the Southern Governors met and adopted my resolution denouncing the civil rights program/and things began to pick up in the fight against the President. ~~I cancelled my reservation for the Jackson Day dinner after President Truman~~
~~stabbed the South in the back and~~ many other southerners ~~xxxxxx~~ did likewise.

My opponent had reserved at the 1948 dinner a table directly in front of the President. Instead of cancelling his reservation he left the table blank/and I have a picture of it here.

The reason given for the blank table was the "no segregation" policy followed at the 1948 Jackson Day dinner.

This was in line with the views of the people of South Carolina and they approved the action of their junior Senator in staying away from the Jackson Day dinner in 1948 because white and colored people were invited to the same dinner and to eat at the same tables.

But what happened in 1950? There was another Jackson Day dinner. Mr. Truman had been reelected and my opponent had deserted the Democratic Party of South Carolina to support him. He was in the inner circle and working with the Trumanites to take over our party in South Carolina.

Because Mr. Truman owed his election to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the CIO Political Action Committee, there were more negroes at the 1950 Jackson Day Dinner than at the 1948 Jackson Day dinner.

But my opponent became color blind in 1950. He was at the 1950 Jackson Day Dinner in all his glory and the bars against segregation were completely broken down. Yet just two short years before he had refused to attend the Jackson Day dinner because negroes were in attendance.

~~My opponent's colleague, Senator Burnett Bollinger,~~
~~did not attend the 1950 dinner when the bars were let down.~~ Every member of the South Carolina congressional delegation stayed away with one lone exception. That exception was my opponent in this race for the Senate.

Could it be that the Waring decision opening our
white primary in South Carolina to negro voters influenced my
opponent, ~~in refusing~~ ^{who had refused} to attend a dinner ^{in 1948} because there was no
segregation ~~in 1948~~ ^{to} and attend the same dinner in 1950? ^{I want you}
^{to remember that in 1948 he refused to go because negroes were there,}
^{but in 1950 he went, although there were many more negroes present.}
I leave it for my opponent to answer and the people

of South Carolina to judge.

In this connection I would like to read to you from
an article in the Afro-American, published in Baltimore, and
appearing under a Newberry date line. It is about the court case
you in Greenwood know so much about involving one John H. McCray,
editor and publisher of the Columbia Lighthouse and Informer.

The Afro-American describes McCray as a militant
editor and "a hot crusader for equal rights in South Carolina."

The article continues:

"He is chairman of the Progressive Democrats of the
state and has organized more than 200,000 colored citizens to go
to the polls in the July primaries in defiance of the white
supremacy Dixiecrat party which at the last election controlled
this State."

Now I do not have to tell you that McCray and my
opponent voted the same ticket in the South Carolina presidential
election two years ago. Neither one voted the ticket of the
Democratic party of South Carolina which both of them choose to
call the Dixiecrat ticket.

Now I want to call to your attention another article/
in the same issue of the Afro-American under a Washington dateline.
It tells of the demand of Edgar G. Brown, director of the national
Negro Council, calling for the expulsion from the Senate of a
group of Southern Senators. Included in this group is our senior
senator, Burnet R. Maybank; but my opponent is not listed among
the Senators/this negro association believes should be expelled
from the Senate. Dick Russell is included in the negro purge
list/but not my opponent.

My opponent deserted the Democratic party of South
Carolina to support Truman/and he is ~~not~~ on the negro association
purge list. He is on another list/but that is the list of the
CIO Political Action Committee for reelection to the United States
Senate. Also on the CIO-PAC list with my opponent/was Senator
Pepper, of Florida, and Senator Graham, of North Carolina.

The negro associations and the CIO Political Action
Committee/are working hand in hand/to tear down our segregation
laws and promote the Truman program. For some reason/they are
not seeking to purge my opponent from the Senate. They are
supporting him/and opposing my election to the United States
Senate.

I leave it to my opponent to answer/and the people
of South Carolina to judge.